

STATE OF THE HOME TRADE.

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came from the cabinet of Berthier, and not from that of the Minister of War. Everything which concerned any part of the government of the Interior or of the Exterior, except for the administration of War and perhaps for that of Finance, had its centre in the cabinet of M. Maret, certainly an honest man, but whose facility in saying "*All is right*"¹ so much helped to make all wrong.¹

The home trade, manufactures, and particularly several of the Parisian firms were in a state of distress the more hurtful as it contrasted so singularly with the splendor of the Imperial Court since the marriage of Napoleon with Maria Louisa. In this state of affairs a chorus of complaints reached the ears of the Due de Illoviço every day. I must say that Savary was never kinder to me than since my disgrace; he nourished my hope of getting Napoleon to overcome the prejudices against me with which the spirit of vengeance had inspired him, and I know for certain that Savary returned to the charge more than once to manage this. The Emperor listened without anger, did not blame him for the closeness of our intimacy, and even said to him some obliging but insignificant words about me. This gave time for new machinations against me, and to fill him with fresh doubts when he had almost overcome his former ideas.²

¹ The evil to which Boxirrionne here alludes, the loss of power by the Ministers, was one of the great causes of the disasters of the Empire. The Minister of War was little more than a clerk, the administration of the "materiel," etc., being separated, and the higher appointments being given through Berthier without reference to him. See *Foy*, tome i. p. 74, 75. In the absences of the Emperor from Paris the despatches of the Ministers were presented to him by Maret, Due de Bassano, a man ready to undertake any responsibility. If the Emperor objected to any name submitted from Paris for an appointment, Maret was at hand to suggest another person, and the nominally responsible Ministers lost power and credit. This was especially the case in the later years of the Empire (*tiamry*, tome iii. p. 35).

² Savary, Due de Illoviço, had become Minister of Police on the disgrace of Pouche* in June, 1810, and in his own Memoirs he describes his reforms in his administration to the same effect as Bourrienne does. H* corroborates Bourdonne as to their continued intimacy, and his efforts to ^0 Bourrienne again employed, but his own character was not of a description to add much weight to his recommendation in this case.